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March 13, 2013

Dr. John Stobo, Senior Vice President
Ms. Grace Crickette, Chief Risk Officer
University of California, Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Dr. Stobo and Ms. Crickette,

I understand that the UC SHIP plan is up for renewal and that benefit caps are being reviewed in addition to the full cost of the plan. I am writing so that you, the UC SHIP Advisory Board and the UC SHIP Executive Committee know that I agree with an overwhelming majority of Berkeley students consulted who prefer that annual pharmacy and lifetime maximum caps be removed from UC SHIP starting in 2013-14. In addition, as we look to the future I also strongly support student recommendations that UC SHIP be in full compliance with how benefit caps are addressed in the Affordable Care Act.

We have quantitative data from over 450 Berkeley undergraduate and graduate student respondents via campus forums and an online survey about their opinions on annual pharmacy and lifetime maximum caps. Berkeley students have provided a clear mandate:

- 67% of respondents prefer removing the lifetime maximum cap currently estimated at an additional annual premium cost of \$37 for graduate students and \$27 for undergraduate students.
- 63% of respondents prefer removing the annual pharmacy cap currently estimated at an additional annual premium cost of \$14 for graduate students and \$12 for undergraduate students.
- Less than 10% of respondents find removal of these caps unacceptable.

From the survey, we frequently heard from Berkeley students that they felt a moral need to remove the caps. This quote summarized the views of many: "We definitely need to get rid of caps. It's a low cost for each student, and we should be supportive of each other as a community so that if someone is so sick that they would need to go over the current caps they would be able to do so."

I also met with students. I was impressed that while students may reach the lifetime maximum infrequently, the impact can be devastating. In the case of Kenya Wheeler who was diagnosed with brain cancer as a graduate student, he had to juggle navigating multiple agencies regarding health care coverage and costs while he was receiving cancer treatment. In addition, I've learned of stories of UC SHIP benefit

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caps being a consideration for some prospective graduate student as they consider whether to accept an offer from Berkeley; this can interfere with our ability to recruit top graduate student talent.

Given the above, I strongly recommend that:

- Annual pharmacy and lifetime maximum caps be removed from UC SHIP starting in 2013-14.
- UC SHIP come into full compliance with how benefit caps are addressed in the Affordable Care Act.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob".

Robert J. Birgeneau

cc: VC Harry Le Grande
AVC Ron Coley
AVC Erin Gore
Ms. Claudia Covello
President Connor Landgraf
President Bahar Navab
Mr. Kenya Wheeler
Mr. Devonte Jackson
Ms. Maggie Hardy
Ms. Charlie Eaton